

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 167550

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SPAIN'S NEW PREMIER

A. ALONE AT THE TOP

EMBASSY MADRID FEARS THAT AREILZA'S AND FRAGA'S RESIGNATIONS HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT A POTENTIAL CRISIS IN THE NAMING OF A NEW CABINET. THE EMBASSY NOTES THAT:

--SUAREZ HAS HAD TO DENY TO THE PRESS THAT HIS APPOINTMENT WAS INTENDED TO RETURN OPUS DEI TECHNOCRATS TO POWER.

--MODERATE OPPOSITION FIGURES HAVE SO FAR TURNED DOWN OFFERS OF CABINET POSTS.

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--IN THIS CONTEXT, IF AREILZA -- SEEN AS A GUARANTOR

OF CONTINUED REFORM -- PERSISTS IN HIS REFUSAL TO JOIN, IT MAY PROVE DIFFICULT TO ASSEMBLE A BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT.

EMBASSY COMMENT: NO ONE IS INDISPENSIBLE. CABINET CRISES HAVE A WAY OF RUNNING THEIR COURSE, AND NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE. THE DANGER IS THAT SUAREZ WILL BE FORCED TO FALL BACK ON THE OLD WAR HORSES OR ON UNKNOWN, GIVING HIS CABINET A JERRY-BUILT CHARACTER THAT WOULD NOT AUGER WELL FOR ITS STAYING POWER.

B. AN OFFER THAT CAN'T BE REFUSED?

IN HIS FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT JULY 6 SUAREZ MADE A GENERAL APPEAL TO SPANIARDS OF ALL PERSUASIONS TO LEND A HAND IN PUTTING TOGETHER A NEW POLITICAL FRAMEWORK. THE PRIME MINISTER:

--PROMISED FUTURE GOVERNMENTS WILL BE FORMED ON THE BASIS OF ELECTED MAJORITIES;

--POINTEDLY LEFT THE TASK OF DEFINING A PROGRAM TO THE YET-UNFORMED GOVERNMENT; AND

--EVOKED THE CONCEPT OF A DEMOCRATIC MONARCHY, FAILING TO MENTION THE PRINCIPLES OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT, LET ALONE FRANCO.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IN HIS HEAVY EMPHASIS ON THE CODEWORDS THAT HAVE BEEN THE HALLMARK OF DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION RHETORIC, SUAREZ HAS GIVEN THE OPPOSITION A PUBLIC SIGNAL THAT HE WANTS THEM TO BE PART OF THE NEW GAME -- AN OFFER HE HOPES THEY CAN'T REFUSE. (CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 5209 AND 5221, 7/6.) KISSINGER

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